

U of A receives Canada's largest university land gift

Michel Proulx

It's the gift of a lifetime. Alumni Edwin and Ruth Mattheis donated their 12,300-acre ranch to the University of Alberta Dec. 7. The gift ensures the land will forever remain a working ranch and will provide the university with outstanding research and teaching opportunities in rangeland and pasture management.

In light of the historic gift, the university is establishing the Mattheis Chair in Rangeland Ecology and Management.

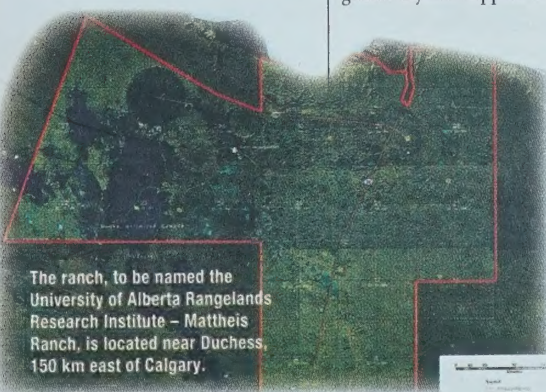
The ranch, to be named the University of Alberta Rangelands Research Institute – Mattheis Ranch, is located near Duchess, 150 kilometres east of Calgary. It adds to the agricultural research infrastructure of the university, placing it squarely in a leadership position in rangeland ecology and management research.

In accepting the gift, President Indira Samarasekera pointed out that its impact on scientific research and learning is what is most important.

"No other university in Canada has access to a natural research lab of this kind—indeed only a very few universities in all of North America have the rangeland resource that the U of A now has," she said.

"Research will be conducted on a wide variety of rangeland ecology and management issues including grasslands ecology, carbon sequestration and storage, the impact of climate change on mixed-grass prairie, land reclamation and water optimization."

Story continued on page 3



The ranch, to be named the University of Alberta Rangelands Research Institute – Mattheis Ranch, is located near Duchess, 150 km east of Calgary.

Quite a catch



The Paleontology Museum recently unveiled its newest permanent exhibit, featuring a cast of a dunkleosteus skull—a super-predator that dominated the Devonian seas 360 million years ago—creating a commanding entrance to the museum. For full story, see page 9.

Mactaggart donation has university 'Soaring'

Folio Staff

Edmonton's Sandy and Cécile Mactaggart are builders; they have quite literally been instrumental in building the city of Edmonton. But they have also built community, cultural understanding and in the case of the University of Alberta, they have been key in building the institution into one of the world's most respected and leading centres of research, teaching and learning.

And on Dec. 13, the remarkable generosity and support that the

Mactaggarts have shown the U of A continued with the announcement that the Mactaggarts are giving their family home, "Soaring," its surrounding grounds along the North Saskatchewan River, and many of the home's beautiful contents, to the university.

That gift represents just a part of a broader legacy of giving to the U of A, which has marked decades of support from the Mactaggarts. Their giving—along with the resulting matching funds their donations have generated from government—equal an unprecedented \$100 million for the university, says President Indira Samarasekera.

"Sandy and Cécile Mactaggart are among this university's greatest friends, supporters and benefactors. Indeed, they have made an indelible mark on post-secondary education in Canada as they inspire us all to strive for the advancement of education, knowledge and culture. The sheer generosity of giving the university their home leaves us humbled. The Mactaggarts have simply transformed us, and their relationship with the university is a

dynamic force as the U of A continues to grow," Samarasekera said.

The Mactaggarts' gifts to, and support for, the U of A date back several decades. Sandy has served on the university's board, including holding the position of chair, and held the position of chancellor of the university. The couple have endowed the Mactaggart Writing Award and are regular contributors to several scholarship funds and research projects in areas of study as diverse as stuttering and family business.

In 2005 the Mactaggarts donated a stunning collection of Chinese artifacts to the university; a gift which was matched in cash by the Alberta government, leading to the establishment of the U of A's China

"We have always thought that giving back is a personal responsibility of any engaged citizen."

Sandy Mactaggart

Institute. The institute and the Mactaggart Collection continue to be leading forces in promoting research, institutional partnerships, cultural exchanges and understanding.

Sandy Mactaggart says giving is an important part of building community.

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WISEST
crusader named
one of Canada's
most powerful

Story page 3



Celebrate the Season
with an elegant reception at Alumni House



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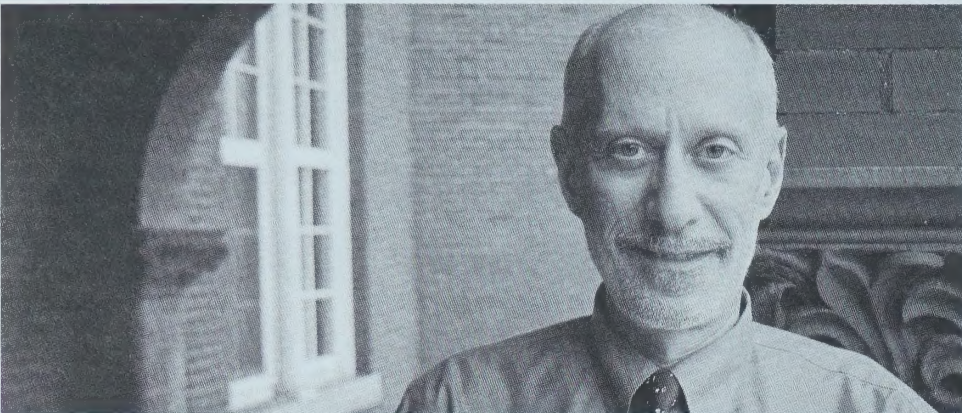


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- ☐ Please keep my name, or
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U of A appoints new dean for Augustana Campus



Allen Berger will take up his new post in Camrose July 1.

Geoff McMaster

A seasoned post-secondary administrator from the State of Maine has been named dean of Augustana Faculty and executive officer of Augustana Campus. Coming to the University of Alberta from the University of Maine at Farmington, Maine's public liberal arts college, where he serves as provost and vice-president, academic, Allen Berger will take up his new post in Camrose July 1.

"Highly praised as an ardent advocate for the liberal arts and academic rigour, [Berger] made the choice to move from a career in private liberal arts colleges to public liberal arts institutions, out of his desire that education of the whole person be accessible to those wanting to pursue it," says U of A provost and vice-president, academic, Carl Amrhein.

"He understands Augustana's mission and goals, and he shares these personally. He is devoted to the student experience and to the support of faculty and staff. He prizes Augustana's focus on undergraduate teaching and believes that a residence-based campus is the best place for this focus."

At the University of Maine, Berger led initiatives that revamped and improved programs and processes, raising the profile of the institution for quality of education and student experience. He

also served as program director for the Council of Public Liberal Arts Colleges, an American council of which Augustana is the sole Canadian member.

Berger began his career as a cultural anthropologist, examining a small, village population in the highland interior of Sardinia, and the tension between "communitarian traditions and stresses created by a combination of capitalist market penetration and state penetration into what was at the time a very remote region." He says he gained his first administrative experience advocating for his discipline in the design of curriculum, as the sole anthropologist in a sociology department.

A full-time administrator since the mid-'90s, he has served in the cabinets of five presidents at three post-secondary institutions. What has driven him during his 15 years of post-secondary leadership, he says, is "the opportunity to galvanize a faculty and a staff around a vision to enhance quality and excellence... the ability to be an agent of change for the good of all."

At the same time, Berger insisted that "top down forms of leadership are not a good match for academic institutions," adding "that it would be presumptuous of me to announce before even arriving at Augustana that I had a vision. Visions are developed collaboratively and certainly require good listening skills from leadership."

"My wife and I love Maine, but we're drawn to Augustana's mission, and think it's a wonderful opportunity," he says. "I'm a full believer that the highest quality of education is to be found at residential liberal arts colleges... and in the public sector."

"Clearly at Augustana there's an interest in academic rigour, in enhancing opportunities for undergraduate research, in tackling difficult but meaningful educational reform, and in internationalization as well as the development of rural regions. I've spent my entire academic career in small towns; the City of Camrose seems a lot like places we've lived, only in a Canadian setting."

Berger praised the close relationship between Camrose and Augustana and the "strong ethic of community service that appears to inform many Augustana programs."

In announcing Berger's appointment, Amrhein reserved a few words for outgoing dean Roger Epp, who has been at the helm of Augustana since 2002 and taught there since 1990.

"Roger successfully led Augustana through years of a merge into the University of Alberta family," said Amrhein. "And further, he greatly contributed to the advancement of the Augustana Campus in the university community and in the provincial, national and international communities." ■

Inspiration is the best gift

Indira Samarasekera
President and vice-chancellor

For many of us, giving lies at the heart of the holiday season, and the U of A has been fortunate to receive three major gifts in recent weeks. The first was GlaxoSmithKline's \$5 million donation to establish the GlaxoSmithKline Virology Research Support Endowment Fund, followed by Edwin and Ruth Mattheis' gift of their 12,000-acre family ranch for the advancement of rangeland research and sustainability. Early this week, Sandy and Cécile Mactaggart gave the university their Edmonton home, Soaring, its surrounding property and many of it valued contents.

At the events celebrating these gifts, I could see that there was nothing routine about these particular gifts. Paul Lucas, president and CEO of GSK, has been supporting the work of Lorne Tyrrell for more than two decades. The Mattheis are both alumni of the U of A, graduating in the late 1950s, and the Mactaggarts are among the U of A's greatest friends and benefactors.

All three donors spoke at the gift announcements with great emotion about how they were entrusting the University of Alberta with far more a gift—they were entrusting us with their hopes for the future. Our donors give to us because they share with us a core belief that research and education can truly advance society to greater understanding and a better future.

In the case of these particular gifts, the donors see in the U of A a group of researchers and teachers devoted to pursuing the questions, ideas, and solutions that will lead to new vaccines and cures, to sustainable management and conservation of a unique prairie ecological system, and to the advancement of artistic, historical and cultural understanding. Edwin and Ruth Mattheis and Sandy and Cécile Mactaggart have entrusted us with their beloved home—it is difficult to imagine a stronger indication of their support for the work and ideals of the university.

“All three donors spoke with great emotion about how they were entrusting the U of A with far more than a gift—they were entrusting us with their hopes for the future.”

Indira Samarasekera

My thanks to all of you—the faculty and staff of the U of A—for what you do to inspire donors to support the university and the work that is done here. Your efforts reach far beyond the borders of campus and resonate with the hopes and aspirations of many individuals in the communities we serve. These three gifts clearly demonstrate that the work that we do to advance and disseminate knowledge matters. Thank you for your many contributions. ■

Mactaggart donations surpass the \$100-million mark

continued from page 1

"We have always thought that giving back is a personal responsibility of any engaged citizen, an obligation to belonging to the larger community, without which no one could be successful," said Mactaggart.

Giving of time and money to the university is an obvious way to support the broader community, he says. "Cécile and I were always convinced that the University of Alberta could become the internationally recognized university it has become—a place of respected learning and discovery, a place of culture—and

in doing so help build the city of Edmonton itself. So we turned to making sure that long-term vision became a reality, and today's gift is another way we hope we can continue to help build Edmonton and the University of Alberta."

The university has not determined how the Mactaggarts' latest gift will ultimately be used, but the goal is to ensure the gift's value is maximized to bring real, considerable and long-term benefit to the university while respecting and acknowledging the Mactaggarts' legacy. ■



New PharmD degree is the right Rx for health care in Alberta

Jamie Hanlon

A longstanding prescription for the University of Alberta's Faculty of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Science has been filled.

The U of A's board of governors approved the creation of a doctor of pharmacy program (PharmD), a program that has been on the books within the faculty since 1993. The new degree, which will be initially offered in September 2012 (pending provincial government approval), will be a 14-month program combining classroom and practice-based learning in either team-based, community/ambulatory or acute-care environments.

"The degree will allow the students to have a very broad view of pharmacy practice and all the possi-

bilities," said Terri Schindel, associate dean of undergraduate programs for the faculty. "We're also hoping that pharmacists will want a rural experience where teams come together in the community in different ways."

The PharmD is a logical extension of the pharmacy's bachelor program, the degree that will remain the conditional standard for entry to professional practice in the province. However, the new program's focus will shift the professional focus from the drugs to the more patient-based direction that their profession is moving in.

"This degree will help people see and focus on patient care," said Schin-

del. "Patient focus is really key in this new degree."

The degree is another first of sorts for the faculty and for the province.

While there are a few PharmD degrees in other parts of Canada, their role and structure is different from the proposed U of A model,

says Schindel. Based on surveys conducted by the faculty, current undergrads and practising pharmacists and other pharmacy schools are overwhelming supportive of the proposed program. Currently, those who wish to take a doctor of pharmacy program must travel to institutions in places such as Colo-

rado or Idaho to do so.

The first cohort will be comprised of 13 recent graduates who elect to continue directly with the new program before undertaking their careers. Following the inaugural launch, the class will become a mix of recent grads and seasoned pharmaceutical practitioners. Pharmacy Dean James Kehrer says this group will have the "full scope" of practice that will allow them to take full advantage of their professional abilities as a health-care provider—one that now, in Alberta, covers being a prescribing drug authority and administering vaccinations.

"It's very exciting for us to have the degree approved by the board of governors," said Kehrer. "It's important to get a number of these people out there that are going to be

the leaders of delivering pharmaceutical care in the hospital setting, and we believe, hold an important role in the community setting where the pharmacist is the most accessible health-care provider that we have, but one that has been underutilized.

"Now, we have a mechanism by which we can have more highly-skilled practitioners available to the public." ■

Largest land gift

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A teaching and extension program will take place, added John Kennelly, dean of the Faculty of Agricultural, Life & Environmental Sciences.

"Various aspects of applied ecology, grazing management, livestock husbandry and production economics for the mixed-grass prairie region will be examined," he said.

The ranch is composed primarily of rangeland and about 700 acres of cultivated land. It is a microcosm of southern Alberta and has a diversity of ecosystems and habitats, a rich variety of plant life, different riparian areas along the Red Deer River and the Matziwin Creek, and several created wetlands that are managed for wildlife habitat.

The ranch complements the university's agricultural research infrastructure, which includes the 12,000-acre Kinsella ranch in central Alberta, the 800-acre St. Albert Research Station used for crops research, the Breton Plots used for soil research and the numerous facilities on South Campus.

Edwin Mattheis, BSc (Eng) '57, and Ruth, BA '58, bought the ranch in 1977. By donating their ranch, for which they have a special attachment, the Mattheis are ensuring the land use will remain the same and that it will be used following the principles of sustainable rangeland management and act as a focal point for research and education.

The couple have been conducting their own research for a number of years, including testing and analysis of groundwater, monitoring of weed and wildlife presence and distributions and the collection of weather data. ■

U of A scientist named one of Canada's most powerful women

Wanda Vivequin

Margaret Ann Armour has been named one of Canada's top 100 most powerful women.

The Faculty of Science's associate dean, diversity, was presented with the award at a gala event in Toronto Nov. 29.

The Women's Executive Network, which releases its list of powerful women annually, received more than 300 nominations from across Canada and pared the submissions to 100 women it believes have accomplished something truly exemplary.

Canada's Most Powerful Women: Top 100 Awards recognizes the country's highest achieving female leaders in the private, public and not-for-profit sectors.

"Our Top 100 community is a powerful group of women who are at the top of their game," said Pamela Jeffery, founder of the Women's Executive Network. "Top 100 is a mark of their success and how they have supported their communities, companies and organizations."

"I am honoured to be recognized in this way, joining a remarkable group of

women leaders who are making a difference in Canadian life," says Armour.

For over a quarter of a century, Armour has been one of Canada's premier women of science, volunteering tirelessly to encourage girls and young women to consider careers in the sciences and engineering. She has done this through the creation and nurturing of a series of initiatives under an umbrella organization called WISEST, or Women in Scholarship, Engineering, Science and Technology. Through this program and related activities, Armour is a recognized leader in raising national awareness among school-aged girls, educators, parents and employers of the importance of

encouraging women to enter science and engineering.

Her commitment began in 1981, when Armour was one of 20 leaders who studied the low number of women in science. A year later, WISEST was formed. In an era when women represented only 30 per cent of undergraduate science and engineering students and the number of female faculty was 10 per cent in science and two per cent in engineering, Armour played a pivotal role as a mentor and a significant role model for young women.

"I am honoured to be recognized in this way, joining a remarkable group of women leaders who are making a difference in Canadian life."

Margaret Ann Armour



Margaret Ann Armour

Her dedication continues. Armour is currently the founding president of the board of the Canadian Centre for Women in Science, Engineering, Trades and Technology, the WinSETT Centre. The centre was officially launched at the CCWESTT conference in Winnipeg on May 14, 2010.

For her work and advocacy in improving the situation of Canadian women in science and technology, Armour was named to the Order of Canada in 2006. She also received a Governor General's Award commemorating the Persons Case, a landmark decision in 1929 that declared women to be persons under the British North America Act. Armour's dedication to education and her passion for science was also recognized in 2007 when she was named a champion of public education by the Learning Partner-

ship. Later that year she also received the Alberta Science and Technology Leadership Awards Foundation Special Award.

As associate dean of science, diversity Armour has developed and implemented Project Catalyst, as series of actions to increase the percentage of women in faculty positions in the Faculty of Science. Although more than 50 per cent of undergraduate students in the sciences in universities across Canada are female, less than 20 per cent of the faculty members are women, and this percentage has changed only slightly over the past 10 years. She has been invited to the University of Western Ontario, the University of Ottawa and the University of British Columbia to talk about the initiative and UWO and UBC have instituted similar programs. ■

University closure reminder

The university closure during this holiday season will be extended by two days to account for the last of the negotiated furlough days. The university will be closed from Friday, Dec. 24 to Tuesday, Jan. 4. The university will be open for business and classes resume on Jan. 5. ■

Are You a Winner?

Congratulations to Al Kalantar, whose name was drawn as part of folio's Dec. 3 "Are You a Winner?" contest. Kalantar correctly identified the placement of the water bottle in question as among a short-lived flock of miniature snowmen in Quad. For his efforts, Kalantar has won the same U of A-emblazoned water bottle.

Up for grabs this week is a collection of stories by the U of A's Rudy Weibe. The book spans 50 years of Weibe's literary works that define and refine prairie literature. To win, simply email your correct answer to folio@exr.ualberta.ca by noon on Friday, Jan. 7, and you will be entered into the draw.



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The campus becomes a winter wonderland after the Dec. 15 snowstorm.

Edmonton's vision of the future still very much alive

Indira Samarasekera
President and vice-chancellor

Drawing a vision of the future is always a risk. As we all know, there are no guarantees, and when an imagined future finally becomes a present reality, there can be disappointment. Just as often, though, there is surprise at just how far reality exceeds aspiration. Albertans, in my experience, face the future boldly in spite of the risks. Last month, Edmonton's bid for Expo 2017—a bid that involved the University of Alberta as a central partner—came to an end, but the vision of the future that enlivened that bid is still alive and well.

That vision was one of an outward, forward-looking city located in a province and country that leads the world in quality of life, energy and sustainability, and education and research. The aim was to open our doors and welcome nations, global citizens, artists, scientists and thinkers—to hear from them and to showcase the diversity and value of our contributions to the global community. Like the city, province and other bid partners, the U of A saw a great opportunity in hosting Expo, and the fact that the bid has come to an end should

not diminish all that has been achieved thus far and the possibilities that still lie ahead.

As is so often the case, tomorrow's successes are most likely to be built through collaboration. Putting together the Expo bid required collaboration and partnership across many sectors—municipal and provincial governments, public institutions, private corporations and community leaders. These connections aren't always easy to build. It takes time and effort. Ultimately, they won't thrive without an underlying conviction that in strengthening the whole, each partner strengthens itself and vice versa.

In the last several years, these ties between sectors have been growing stronger in Edmonton, and we're seeing widespread benefits. Take a recent announcement at the University of Alberta as one example: thanks to a \$5 million gift from GlaxoSmithKline, we celebrate the establishment of a research endowment in virology. This gift follows on the heels of multimillion-dollar investments in virology research from the Li Ka Shing Canada Foundation and the provincial government announced early this year. Those investments made it possible for the university to recruit Michael Houghton—who discovered the hepatitis C virus—as a successful candidate

for a Canada Excellence Research Chair, which came to the U of A through a new research program launched by the federal government. The result? The U of A and Edmonton are now home to an international centre of excellence in virology research.

Who benefits? Virology researchers and students, of course, but also the university more generally, as we become an increasingly attractive destination for top global talent. The city, province and country reap the benefits of being home to an international and highly skilled citizenry and workforce. More importantly, Edmonton is now set to become the site of future discoveries in virology that alleviate the suffering of people at home and around the world. In the long term, the growth of Edmonton's biomedical industry also has the potential to become a significant part of a much more diversified and innovative

Albertan economy. So, thanks to extensive participation of many partners, the Expo 2017 vision of Edmonton, Alberta and Canada as being integral contributors to the global community is already becoming a reality.

This visionary, collaborative energy fuels many other initiatives as well. In partnership with city and several area sponsors, the university wrapped up a very successful 2010 Festival of Ideas which involved presenters from Edmonton, Canada, Australia, Turkey, Nicaragua, Rome, the United States and the United Kingdom. I just returned from India, where we continue to build partnerships with that country's top universities. Last month, U of A's Augustana Campus signed an agreement with one of China's new liberal arts universities, which is looking to Augustana as a model. Our ties to Germany, recently expanded with the Alberta Helmholtz

the open door

Initiative, continue to grow.

The U of A is attracting this diverse, international interest because potential partners see us as an institution where excellence in research and teaching is strongly supported by multiple public and private community and government partners, especially the City of Edmonton.

That's why I am convinced that the Expo vision of Edmonton as an outward, forwarding-looking city, able to have a major impact in the global community, is alive and thriving. In the coming months and years, the U of A will continue to work with our Edmonton partners to create initiatives and seek smart opportunities to share this vision, and the many benefits it will bring, with the world. ■

VP research here to help faculty reach potential

Michael Brown

Byond monitoring more than 10,000 research grants—worth more than half-a-billion dollars per year to the University of Alberta—the top duty of the Office of the Vice-President (Research) is to facilitate research and creative activity.

"We need to communicate the research successes of our university," said Lorne Babiuk, vice-president (research). "If the public and the governments recognize and appreciate that what we're doing has a benefit to society, they will be more inclined to support universities".

Babiuk says the Office of the Vice-President (Research) promotes a research environment that fosters learning, creativity, community involvement and collaboration, taking its direction from the U of A's academic plan, *Dare to Deliver*. This includes building on existing research strengths in all disciplines and supporting emerging research strengths in ways that define a unique position for the university; partnering in innovative ways with governments,

industry, national and international partners, and others in developing a knowledge-based economy, as well as expanding interdisciplinary links within the community and beyond.

"Research success requires many facets to come together, usually involving many individuals. Co-ordination can be a big challenge," said Babiuk. "We are constantly meeting with various faculty members and administrators to make sure that we appreciate the aspirations of each faculty member and help facilitate their success." While all of this work comes with a research-dollar label, Babiuk says that, with strengthened research, there are benefits to teaching as well.

"We must be vigilant in ensuring that teaching and research are complementary; we have to be careful not to isolate them. For me, research and teaching are on a continuum and that is why the provost and vice-president (academic) and the vice-president (research) work together very closely to ensure there is proper balance, ensuring that each reinforces the other."

The Office of the Vice-President

University 101

(Research) is also responsible for developing large international programs with various agencies around the world, as well as overseeing the commercialization of technology developed by the faculty here at home.

"Ultimately, the job of the vice-president (research) is to develop and execute an overall research strategy for the university in collaboration with the faculties," said Babiuk. "The institution is very fortunate that we have an extremely capable team. The office works in conjunction with the faculty deans, associate deans (research) and chairs to create and nurture a culture of research and learning.

"The research office is here to assist faculty members and students to achieve their maximum potential. If we can be of any help in doing that, let us know," said Babiuk and that "I love this job. It allows me to experience the creative activities across our institution first-hand, which is an extraordinary privilege." ■

Google Apps on the way

Folio Staff

The University of Alberta announced Dec. 8 that it has come to an agreement with Google to provide the university's faculty, staff and students the use of the education edition of Google Apps. Jonathan Schaeffer, the university's vice-provost (information technology), says the agreement means the university community will begin using Google mail, calendaring, document preparation and other tools. Implementation is slated to begin in January and will be completed over the next year.

"Moving to Google will ultimately have a positive and transformative effect on teaching and learning on campus," said Schaeffer. "There are solid practical reasons to celebrate the move to Google mail, as well—the efficiency it brings will allow our IT resources to be redeployed, allowing our technology teams to turn their attention to the priorities that are central to the mission of the university."

The change will reduce the current number of independent email servers on campus—some 30 or more—to a single system for all users. There are also more than 30 Blackberry servers and these too will be consolidated into a single system.

The switch to a single email system will also allow campus-wide calendaring and a better emergency

response system.

Coming to an agreement with Google was a process that took more than a year, which Schaeffer says allowed the university to ensure appropriate standards for privacy and security were included. The control of information, which is managed through the agreement, is consistent with the requirements of the Alberta Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act.

Google's education edition differs on a couple of key points from Google's public product. First, the university will retain @ualberta.ca addresses (versus the gmail.com addresses used by Google generally). As well, users will not face any advertising, and Google will not be able to "mine" university data shared and stored as part of Gmail use, or share university user information with others.

"For most people the changeover will be almost invisible and users will be able to continue to work with the mail tools they're already comfortable with, or they can leap in and adopt Google's web browser email interface."

University Provost Carl Amrhein says the decision to switch to Google is groundbreaking. "The University of Alberta is the post-secondary leader in Canada when it comes to adopting the new generation of web-enabled tools. More than 20 universities in Canada lined up in support of our negotiations with Google," he said. ■

surf city

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Virus outbreak suspected

Michael Brown

Over the Dec. 10 weekend, a number of students in Lister Centre reported an illness.

According to Kevin Fries, assistant director at the university health centre, the symptoms—vomiting, diarrhea and stomach cramps—are similar to that of the Norovirus, although that has yet to be confirmed.

"We are currently tracking the number of cases, as Norovirus can be transmitted very quickly amongst a population," said Fries. "The virus typically runs its course in 24-48 hours, although individuals should isolate themselves for up to two days after symptoms have abated, getting rest and drinking lots of clear fluids, to make sure they are truly over it."

Fries says the Norovirus is easily spread. The main source of the virus is stool (feces) and vomit from infected persons. The virus is most often spread from person-to-person on unwashed hands. The virus can also be spread by food, water or ice that has been handled by a sick person. Vomiting may spread the virus through the air.

"Norovirus can reside on surfaces for a long time, so it is really important that people are washing their hands regularly with warm water and soap or an alcohol-based hand rub (minimum 62 per cent alcohol content)," said Fries. "If you are sharing a work station, then we are encouraging people to regularly sanitize the area."

"Also, washrooms are perfect breeding grounds for the virus."

Staff and students who experience these specific symptoms are encouraged to email the University Health Centre (health.reporting@ualberta.ca) and report the date that their symptoms.

To prevent and minimize the spread of the virus, the university has increased the frequency of the cleaning of commonly touched surfaces, such as doorknobs, elevator switches, etc. Soap and paper towel will also now be fully stocked in all shared washrooms of the Lister Centre. Laundry facilities will now be free for all residents to enable frequent washing as necessary.

The university administration reminds students that medical notes are no longer necessary for exam. University policy now encourages students to stay home and get better, with a declaration being completed at the corresponding faculty office/Registrar's Office after they are feeling better.

For more information, go to www.health.ualberta.ca/health-info/norovirus.html. ■

Kids with disabilities have their say in landmark study

Jane Hurly

The playground can be a daunting place for any kid trying to join in and be one of the gang. For kids with disabilities, it's just as important to feel included, accepted and valued—particularly by their peers.

In a study to understand the perspectives of children with disabilities around inclusion in physical activities during free play, recreational sports and recess, Nancy Spencer-Cavaliere, an adapted physical activity expert in the Faculty of Physical Education and Recreation, interviewed children with a range of disabilities about their thoughts on what made them feel included or rejected during these activities.

"Children were asked to theorize about other fictional children who are like them, so they didn't have to pour their hearts out initially if they didn't want to. So I'd start by saying, 'Imagine if you were...'"

"I found that as children theorized, they would float in and out of [describing things in the] first, second and third person. They wove their own experiences into those of the fictional child they

were theorizing about. Final questions would ask, 'How about you? How would you feel?'"

Three themes emerged from the data: gaining entry to play, feeling like a legitimate participant and having friends.

"Many children spoke about initiating play," says Spencer-Cavaliere, "and either being invited to play or asking to play, and being rejected or not being invited or not being allowed. Making that initial step into a play environment is really a critical step for children."

One of the children gave an example of wanting to play freeze-tag, a game he enjoyed. "He asked to play and was rejected. He asked the teacher to help and the teacher did nothing. Eventually he walked away. 'It feels like you're treated like an insect,' he said. So a major part of being included was being asked to take part, or another child saying, 'Yes, you can play.'"

Children frequently expressed the need to feel valued, indicating the second major theme: feeling like a legitimate participant. Says Spencer-Cavaliere, "For the children this meant, once within a physical activity or play environment, taking on roles that were meaningful, feeling a part of the game and feeling important,



Nancy Spencer-Cavaliere

"The free-play setting is a major challenge for children with disabilities simply because they're really dependent on other children who are not always mature, or understand or appreciate difference and value that."

Nancy Spencer-Cavaliere

as though you had a valued role."

One boy talked about being sent onto the field during the closing minutes of a soccer match when the team was losing badly. "The child was told to go in," says Spencer-Cavaliere, "but with little time left and the team about to lose anyway, he said, 'I know it's being included,' but you just don't feel like you're included."

"Being in the game isn't the same as feeling as though you're part of it."

In the third theme, children stressed the value of true friendships, having someone they could depend on and trust. "That allowed children to be less concerned about their performance and more invested in being part of the game and having a good time because they were in a safe place with people who accepted and valued them."

One surprise for Spencer-Cavaliere: "Children were given a broad spectrum of things they could talk about, but they never mentioned physical education when discussing feeling included,"

she says. "This may mean they don't consider physical education as inclusive because it's very structured by adults. It seems other children determine the distinction between feeling included or belonging that could arise in other play settings where children could direct and make decisions about who takes part."

"With that said, the free-play setting is a major challenge for children with disabilities," says Spencer-Cavaliere, "simply because they're really dependent on other children who are not always mature, or who don't understand or appreciate difference and value that."

So what's a teacher, coach, or parent to do to help kids with disability feel included? "When in doubt, ask the child," says Spencer-Cavaliere. "You get valuable information and it gives them a say."

Spencer-Cavaliere cautions there is no simple solution. "Children need to have legitimate choices to have meaningful experiences in a variety of physical activity settings, and we should not be limiting the type of setting." ■

Prof plays 80 games of squash to honour injured student

Jane Hurly

What do you do to let someone know you really care?

If you're Brian Maraj, you get on the squash court for eight hours, take on roughly 40 opponents in 10-minute matches (80 games in total), and don't come off until you've raised a good chunk of money for a very worthy cause.

The "Squash-Maraj-athon" arranged by Maraj, a professor in the Faculty of Physical Education and Recreation, was all in the name of undergraduate student Terry Tenove, who suffered a spinal-cord injury during a routine hockey drill Oct. 7.

Tenove had been in Maraj's class on skills acquisition and performance several years before while doing his combined physical education/education degree, and Maraj remembers him as "one of the spunkiest, most enthusiastic go-getters I ever met." And, understanding that the road ahead for Tenove would be challenging, Maraj decided to do something to keep his spirits buoyed.

"I wanted to honour Terry's

fighting spirit," says Maraj, "and to do something to show him we're thinking of him and continue to offer him moral support. I wanted to do something I love for someone we love."

So Maraj rallied friends, co-workers and students to play him in a marathon squash "Maraj-athon" for eight hours on Dec. 8.

Tenove was excited too when he heard and asked for any money raised during the squash marathon to be donated to the Free2BMe physical activity programs for kids and teens with disabilities, run out of the Steadward Centre.

Because Maraj had no previous experience in endurance events, he sought out some advice from exercise physiologist Gordon Bell, to figure out how to pace himself and fuel his body for endurance. "I had a misguided notion of what I would be eating and drinking," he says, "but Gordon told me what to eat and when—tips about which foods were high-glycemic and low-glycemic and how I could structure them during the course of the day."

Properly fuelled, Maraj took on

his opponents with enthusiasm, taking breaks on the hour and a short respite at lunch when education dean Fern Snart presented Maraj with a generous contribution to the cause.

With an hour to go, Maraj played Peter Tenove, Terry's brother, an undergraduate kinesiology student, currently in Maraj's class, to a very enthusiastic crowd of supporters.

And at the end of the eight hours? "I was not tired. I didn't collapse. I didn't even feel like collapsing," he says. "I played every game hard. I had the most exhilarating feeling all day, as though I was on a wave of euphoria, and never felt exhausted; I guess a labour of love can do that."

With almost \$3,000 raised and pledges still rolling in, Maraj is clear



Brian Maraj congratulates physical education and recreation Dean Kerry Mummery for a game well played.

it's not so much about the money as it is about caring and showing it. "This is for Terry. I want him to know that we care and that we think about him every day." ■

U of A checks in with FourSquare

Illeiren Poon

Tech-savvy cellphone users can now make their mark on the University of Alberta campus using FourSquare.

The U of A campus is the first Canadian university on FourSquare, a downloadable app for smart phones that allows users to share their location with friends by "checking in" to various locations mapped out on GPS. Visitors can offer tips or comments about the places they visit and collect points and "badges" for frequent check-ins.

"What I noticed from using Four-

Square personally was that a number of buildings on our South Campus had already been tagged by students, and that the student population were heavy users of FourSquare already," said Jennifer Chesney, marketing and communications executive director (web strategy).

Locations such as the Students' Union Building and the Butterdome are marked on a digital map, many of them complete with hints and tips about the location. Facts like "In the opening credits of SCTV (filmed in Edmonton in the early 1980s) people threw televisions out of Lister Hall's windows," or "Look at the 11 stained-glass panels of St. Joseph's

College. The decorative windows, which depict the mysteries of Christ, were installed between 1984 and 1996," are attached to campus locations.

"We felt that it would be real value-added for the students for them to be able to get more information about the buildings all around them and help them feel like they're part of the campus a little bit more. The more students understand the history of what they're participating in, the more they feel a sense of belonging," said Chesney.

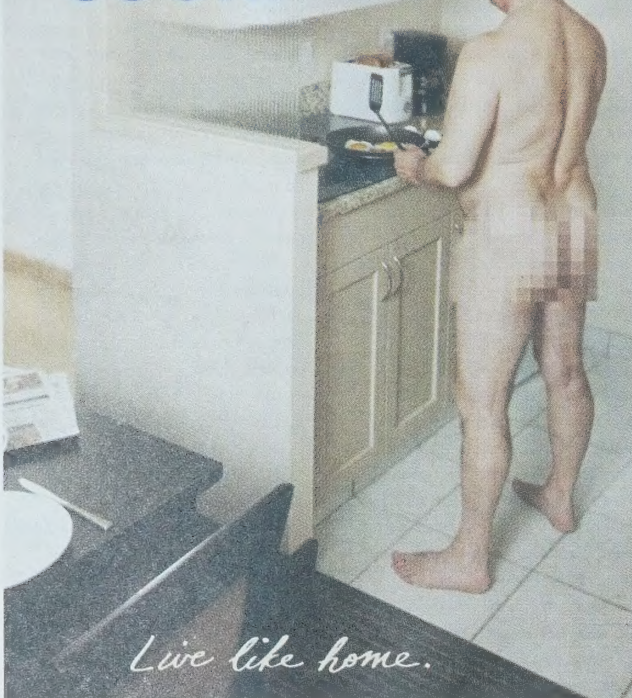
Students and visitors leave simple tips, too, like, "Nice bathrooms!" in the computing science centre or "The coffee

shop on the 2nd floor has excellent Indian food" in the Research Transition Facility.

"The kinds of tips you leave in FourSquare are very personal, and most of them offer their friends' advice. They may go to a particular place in SUB and say the coffee at Java Jive is excellent today," said Chesney.

The social media site is also reaching out to an international user group, said Chesney. "FourSquare is really serving our needs to enhance global awareness of what the U of A is, and it's a real reality check for what's the real culture on campus." ■

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U of A snowbirds to winter at South Pole

**Dinosaur dig lures
paleontologists to Antarctica's
Beardmore Glacier**

Wanda Vivequin

A lot of Alberta couples travel south this time of year—but U of A science duo Phil Currie and Eva Koppelhus have outdone them all. They're headed to Antarctica's spectacular Beardmore Glacier, just a few hundred kilometres shy of the South Pole.

For Currie, it's a return visit. In 2003, he was invited to join an expedition led by William Hammer from Augustana College in Illinois. In 1991, Hammer collected a partial skeleton of a new species of theropod, a meat-eating dinosaur, on the slopes of Antarctica's Mount Kirkpatrick. In 1994, he and William Hickerson named it *Cryolophosaurus ellioti*.

"*Cryolophosaurus* has an unusual bony crest on top of its skull, above the eyes," Currie explains. "Many other theropods have crests, but they're all longitudinal. This one is transverse, like a snow shovel on top of the head."

In 2003, when Hammer raised funds to continue the excavation, he asked Currie to join the team. "I was ecstatic," recalls Currie.

That trip gave Currie memories to last a lifetime. On one overnight camping trip, the crew spotted penguins in the distance and stopped to take photos. "To our amazement,

more than a dozen Emperor penguins walked right over to see who—or what—was invading their territory," Currie says. "When they got bored, they waddled off again across the ice."

Currie was also moved by visits to several historic sites.

On Cape Royds, he was able to enter a hut left behind by the Shackleton expedition of 1907. "It was a wonderful, but eerie experience," says Currie, "to walk through and see unopened cans of food, sleds, beds with sealskin sleeping bags, and all of the other supplies that they abandoned when they left."

On this year's expedition, Hammer hopes to finish excavating the *Cryolophosaurus* skeleton, and to start prospecting other promising sites that his team surveyed by helicopter in 2003. Currie's adrenaline is already pumping. "Most of the rocks of the Hanson Formation are exposed only on the highest mountains, so

it's sure to be exciting."

Once Currie and Koppelhus arrive at McMurdo, Antarctica, they and the team face a week of courses in snow survival, altitude and mountaineering before flying inland to their remote camp. "We'll spend most of December and January in an icy, frozen corner of the world that is spectacularly beautiful," marvels Currie. In short, it's no tropical cruise. But it promises to be one magnificent adventure. ■



Phil Currie



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ISTAR helps those suffering from speech impediments speak out

Holly Gray

Walid Omairi used to introduce himself as “Vincenzo.” But he wasn’t playing a trick or trying to be funny. The 17-year-old had a stuttering impediment so severe he was forced to avoid using certain words, including his own name.

But now Omairi has his confidence—and his name—back, thanks to an intensive three-week program at the world-class Institute for Stuttering Treatment and Research, or ISTAR, a division of the University of Alberta’s Faculty of Rehabilitation Medicine. Omairi says he can’t believe how far he’s come since beginning treatment.

“I can remember five weeks ago standing in the airport, begging my brother to order a bottle of water for me because I was so terrified to speak to other people,” he says. “Although this sounds hard on my brother, he wouldn’t order it for me. He was just trying to get me to attempt speaking, rather than avoid the situation. Ultimately, I waited to get on the plane and pointed at the water when the steward was serving drinks.”

The institute prides itself on its goal of helping those with speech impediments become the best communicators possible—for them to be able to say exactly what they want to say, when and wherever they want to say it. Now Omairi has the tools to help himself overcome the simplest challenges that fluent speakers take for granted, such as



Before Walid Omairi sought treatment at the U of A’s Institute for Stuttering Treatment and Research, he had a stuttering impediment so bad he couldn’t say his name.

ordering food and beverages. And he’s not the only one; countless courageous individuals from around the world have travelled to ISTAR to take control of their speech impediments since it was first established in 1986.

Emily Wheeler, a graduate from the speech-language pathology program at the U of A’s Faculty of Rehabilitation Medicine, completed a one-month intensive clinic practicum at the institute and says it was “inspiring working with clients at ISTAR.”

“My experience at ISTAR was extremely rewarding,” she says. “The best part was seeing the transformation each client underwent in terms of their confidence as a speaker. Shy clients were suddenly telling stories and cracking jokes. It was just amazing to see personalities shine through as clients began to believe in their ability to use their fluency skills.”

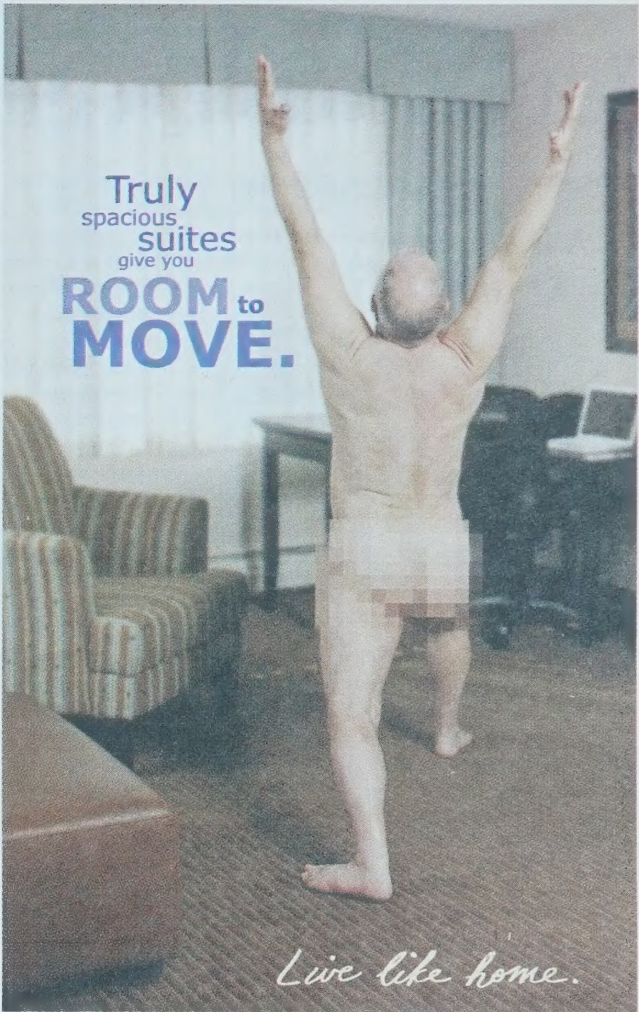
Wheeler, now a working speech-language pathologist with Alberta Health Services, said she would highly recommend ISTAR as a clinical placement for

future students.

“I am grateful I had the opportunity to meet the wonderful and supportive staff at ISTAR, from whom I learned so much,” she says. “Upon completing this practicum I was much more confident in my understanding of stuttering, as well as my clinical abilities to assess and work with clients who stutter.”

ISTAR also conducts groundbreaking stuttering research, offers advanced professional training for speech-language pathology students and clinicians, and promotes public awareness of stuttering and its treatment. ISTAR is the only treatment facility of its kind in North America.

Omairi celebrated his graduation from ISTAR’s intensive treatment program by doing a television interview for Global News. “Just a month ago, I would never have thought I’d be standing in front of you doing a speech,” he said in his speech at the ISTAR graduation ceremony. “Now I’m about to do an interview for TV!”



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Killam recipient shines in discipline with no home

Geoff McMaster

Almost three years ago, an Air Canada jet flying over the Rocky Mountains from Victoria to Toronto was suddenly lifted and dropped about 20 metres, causing passengers who weren't belted in to hit the roof of the plane.

The Transportation Safety Board determined that the cause of the strange and terrifying phenomenon that hit flight AC190 was turbulence, caused by a plane that had passed overhead five minutes earlier. But U of A atmospheric scientist Bruce Sutherland was able to show that a wall of vertically moving air—a little-understood, "large-amplitude" atmospheric wave—was responsible for the event.

The board never did revise its conclusion, and the world continues to await its final report, which was expected last January, said Sutherland. But shedding light on such waves with highly sophisticated mathematical models is Sutherland's claim to fame. Before his groundbreaking research, no one really understood precisely how these waves move in the atmosphere, or how they break up once they reach sufficient amplitude.

Now Sutherland and his team have

managed to capture large-amplitude waves in a mathematical code used by the Canadian Climate Centre for climate predictions, determining wind and temperature patterns. "We basically im-

proved how that climate model works," he says.

The centre's climate model had predicted colder temperatures, for example, than are now observed at the South Pole. With the addition of Sutherland's code, the model now more accurately reflects warmer observed temperatures in the region, and by extension, can more accurately

predict ozone depletion.

For these scholarly contributions, among others, and for an impressive teaching and community-service record, Sutherland has been awarded a prestigious 2010 Killam Scholarship.

"The Killam was huge," he says. "It's not just the prestige, but that it recognizes teaching and interaction with the community as well as research." And as for the support he receives from the U of A, he says he couldn't be more grateful.

"I don't think there's any other university in Canada where you can do what I do. Someone went out on a limb when I was hired."

That's because his niche discipline, as he puts it, "falls between the cracks."



Bruce Sutherland

His primary focus on fluid dynamics, examining the properties of waves in the ocean and atmosphere, "should be physics," he says, "but the department here, like most departments, doesn't consider fluid dynamics to be part of physics anymore. The focus is on particles, black holes or quantum mechanics."

Some might consider his research to be engineering, "but engineers are focusing mostly on industrial problems, not atmospheric or oceanographic." Earth and atmospheric science might seem the appropriate home, but mathematics doesn't have a big role there, and Sutherland says his work is highly mathematical. In fact, he was in the U of A's Department of Mathematical and Statistical Sciences from 1997 to 2007. He now has a cross-appointment between the departments of physics and Earth and atmospheric

sciences, a reflection of his discipline's homeless status.

All of that confusion can sometimes produce challenges in his teaching life as well. Because atmospheric sciences are assumed to be light on math, many of his students take his courses because they're trying to avoid that subject. Their disappointment is palpable, he says, when they discover they're in for a crash course in their least favorite subject.

"Some of the students hate the math... but then they see all the applications, and then suddenly it's not equations anymore but descriptions of reality. So a third of them end up loving it, but a third hate the fact I throw them into the deep end."

Does managing all those expectations mean Sutherland loves teaching or finds it a burden? His answer is quali-

fied, but honest.

"I really like the teaching if the students are engaged. If they're asking, 'Is this going to be on the final exam?'—I don't respect that. But if they're always thinking, 'where does this go, what's happening here, what are the implications of that?'—that curiosity makes it all worthwhile." ■

"I don't think there's any other university in Canada where you can do what I do. Someone went out on a limb when I was hired."

Bruce Sutherland

Supervisor has an admission of happiness

Michael Brown

If you're happy with your job, everything else just slides into place.

That is the philosophy Judith Odhuno-Were brings to the office every day, and because of it, the international admissions supervisor with the Office of the Registrar & Student Awards was presented with a University of Alberta Support Staff Recognition Award, handed out Nov. 15.

"You have to be happy with your job. I know that sounds generic but you if you're not happy in your job it's hard to perform in any way," says the international admissions. "Since I started here my biggest philosophy has just been being content, being happy."

Odhuno-Were supervises the unit, which is responsible for evaluating applications and admitting international

students for study at the U of A.

And although her duties are managerial in nature, Odhuno-Were's colleagues say she goes above and beyond her regular duties to keep the unit organized and productive.

"Judith takes it upon herself to help out at the front desk and by answering phones assisting students," wrote one nominator, "not because help is necessarily needed, but because she wants to get involved in the work we do on a hands-on basis. She enjoys presenting information to the students and interacting with them."

Joining her troops in the trenches is one of the methods Odhuno-Were says she uses to promote teamwork.

"We have to be able to work as a team to do our job effectively in this

unit," said the one-time international field hockey player for her home country of Kenya. "We have to get along, we

don't have to be best friends, but we have to have the work ethic to get along."

Odhuno-Were, who has an education degree from the U of A, also says she preaches respect and fairness.

"I believe it is important to make everybody feel that they are valued in their job no matter what they do," she said. "I think I am able to rally everyone behind a common goal and I make people feel like it's okay to make mistakes; let's just find the teachable moment and move on."

"It's not the end of the world."

Odhuno-Were says that such an outlook was not always the case at previous jobs, which makes her appreciate her position at the U of A that much more.

"The U of A allows you to be who you are," she said. "I feel very empowered to make decisions and I know I have the backing." ■

staff spotlight



Judith Odhuno-Were

Researcher finds trust isn't always a virtue

Bev Betkowski

Citizen groups acting as consultants to industry would do well to hold onto a little healthy mistrust to keep debate and critical thinking alive, says a University of Alberta researcher.

After studying public advisory committees in the forestry sector, professor John Parkins concluded that in some cases, high levels of trust led to familiarity and apathy on the part of citizens entrusted with representing the public's interests.

Parkins, a researcher in the Department of Rural Economy at the U of A, hopes his findings will give businesses and industry a fresh understanding of what makes citizen committees effective.

"Meaningful public engagement involves more than bringing like-minded people together for regular meetings. It is also important to understand how 'group think' emerges within these groups over time."

"Trust isn't always a good thing, if it erodes the desire—especially of

"Trust isn't always a good thing, if it erodes the desire to deliberate and to question resource-management plans."

John Parkins

long-term groups—to deliberate and to question resource-management plans," Parkins added.

Parkins' 10-month comparative study of sample advisory committees in Alberta's forest industry revealed that the familiarity of group members and a gradual build up of trust tended to "dampen the quality of discussion, the vigorousness of debate and the range of issues and ideas under consideration."

There are more than 200 public advisory committees in the forest sector across Canada, so it is important to understand how these groups function, since they are held up as a key tool for public influence over the management of

public lands in Canada, he added.

The study, which was published in a recent issue of *Society and Natural Resources*, found that when committee members shared a long history of regular meetings and a common pool of knowledge, the meetings lacked public-spiritedness and a connection to the big picture of forest management in Alberta.

In one of the groups studied, many of its members had worked together for more than a decade, and had overlapping personal and professional relationships with one another and with forest company representatives. "With high levels of familiarity, debates about regional forest management were not a priority. Members simply trusted local forest managers to do the right thing," Parkins noted.

He recommends that industries seek out a wider range of public interests for their committees and include members with strong advocacy positions; committee members should be invited to organize and lead meetings, and there should be term limits or rotating membership on the committee. ■

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'Dune buggy' course more than just a race

Richard Cairney

Imagine a university course where you race a high-performance remote-control dune buggy as part of your final exam. That's exactly what students in Curt Stout's mechanical engineering course did earlier this month.

"I would say it's definitely the best final exam ever," said fourth-year mechanical engineering student Kate Maguire. "It's high stress, but it's really a great course. We learned a lot about design process and design intent."

Student teams were given high-end remote-control dune buggies and instructed to convert them from gas to electric power. Teams had to design and manufacture all of the new parts. The final exam consisted of racing the buggies successfully and delivering a presentation on the conversion design process.

"I'm really into sustainable design, so converting these from gas to electric power really interested me," added Maguire, who took part in an exchange program with the University of Freiburg in Germany for a course on sustainability last summer.

The course has a few more interesting twists: students spend their Saturdays at the NAIT machine shop learning to make new parts for their buggies, and no student can manufacture a part of their own design, or inspect a part they've designed or manufactured. The idea, says Stout, is that the students learn to draw plans that are perfectly clear to a machinist.

"That inevitably leads to a lot of hall-



Students from Curt Stout's mechanical engineering course prepare to test their electric dune buggies.

way discussions among the students," said Stout, an industrial professor of design who teaches the course with adjunct professor Dave DeJong. "There is a lot of peer learning that goes on. The students are completely engaged."

"There is a lot of talking back and forth," said fourth-year student Danny Pollard. "You design the parts, you check the drawings, you manufacture the parts and you test the parts. There's a lot of hands-on work and it's time consuming, but it's all worth it."

Held Dec. 4, the race portion of the exam was a timed event. Each team member had to operate the vehicle in a lap race that featured high speeds, spectacular crashes and the occasional

emergency repair.

The race even attracted parents of students. Dean Borschneck, whose son Sean was in the course, drove nearly three hours to Edmonton from Irricana to watch the race.

"He phoned to tell me about what they were doing—he was just gushing about it," said Dean. For his part, Sean says the course was demanding, but invaluable.

"The whole semester has seemed like a final exam—all of our work has led up to this day," he said, adding that his team made spare parts in anticipation of crashes or breakdowns at the exam.

"I'm really interested in manufacture and design so this was a great class." ■

Paleontology Museum lures crowds with massive monster of the sea

Jennifer Kuchta

The next time you're walking down the long hallway in the basement of the Earth Sciences Building at the University of Alberta, don't be surprised to find a massive beady eye monitoring your every move. The Paleontology Museum recently unveiled its newest permanent exhibit, featuring a cast of a *Dunkleosteus* skull—a super predator that dominated the Devonian seas 360 million years ago—creating a commanding entrance to the museum.

The Laboratory for Vertebrate Paleontology purchased this cast, a replica of the largest mounted vertebrate skeleton from the Devonian period.

"These animals were the biggest predators before the dinosaurs," says Mark Wilson, professor emeritus, who, along with Michael Caldwell, chair of biological sciences, was instrumental in the acquisition. "It illustrates to students and researchers the dramatic evolution of the Class Placodermi, which contained a great diversity of armoured fishes but did not survive the end of the Devonian. It also helps us understand other, more fragmentary fossils, including a fang from an even larger jaw that has been in the U of A's collection since 1915, when it was found near Exshaw by John A. Allan, first professor of Geology at the U of A." This fang, a

treasure in the paleontology collection, is now exhibited permanently alongside *Dunkleosteus*.

Standing next to the fang and the *Dunkleosteus* skull with its scissor-like jaw—even apart from its six-metre-long body—gives the museum-goer an eerie sense of the damage these massive predators inflicted on their prey, and there were a lot of "wows" overheard when 575 first-year geology students recently visited the museum. These jaws have also been the subject of biomechanical studies using 3-D models and simulations in the Laboratory for Vertebrate Paleontology.

The Paleontology Museum, located in the basement of the Earth Sciences Building on the University of Alberta campus, is open Monday to Friday, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., and by appointment. This new exhibit was made possible with the support of the Alberta Museums Association, the Department of Biological Sciences, the Department of Earth and Atmospheric Sciences, the Friends of the University of Alberta Museums, the U of A Museums and the Vertebrate Paleontology Specimen Acquisition Fund. For more information, contact 780-492-5834 or visit www.museums.ualberta.ca. ■



Parkinson's sufferers sing a new song

Laurie Wang

Singing lessons as a form of treatment for people with Parkinson's disease? For speech language-pathologist and vocalist Merrill Tanner, it's always made sense.

Currently a PhD student at the University of Alberta's Faculty of Rehabilitation Medicine, Tanner is studying how singing can improve function and communication for patients with the disease—and she's already seeing some positive results.

Parkinson's disease is typically a disease of the elderly, striking in the late 50s. The degenerative disorder hinders the body's ability to produce dopamine, a neurotransmitter that plays a key role in the body's message system. As the disease progresses, the brain is less able to tell body parts what to do.

In addition to symptoms such as tremors, slow movement and parkinsonian gait, patients will eventually lose the ability to speak and swallow—that's where Tanner's study comes in.

"Singing is more vigorous than speech, though it's the same mechanism," Tanner explains. "It's an energetic way to improve loudness, pitch variability, pitch range, breath support and more."

While practicing as a speech-language pathologist in at the Adult Speech Language Centre in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, Tanner incorporated singing into her treatment for patients

with PD. She began work at the Glenrose Rehabilitation Hospital in 2001 with patients who had PD, Alzheimer's or suffered a stroke. She started a weekly singing group for geriatric inpatients.

"Some people would question the use of singing in speech therapy. They'd ask me if I knew for sure that it was effective," says Tanner.

So Tanner decided to do the research herself. She approached a vocal teacher and asked him to conduct his usual half-hour singing lessons three times a week with a cohort of seven PD patients.

"It was very beneficial for the patients and they loved it," she said.

"They'd go home and practise on their own time."

Tanner then made the decision to pursue a PhD in rehabilitation science at the U of A, taking the study further and hosting her own group-singing program for patients with PD.

"There's something about singing together—the unison effect—when there's more than one person, the words seem to flow better because you're together," she explains.

The singing lessons accommodate any level of musical ability, whether the PD patient is just a beginner or a high-level musician.

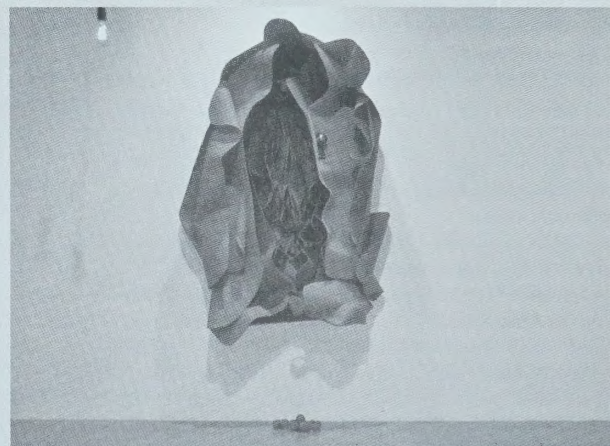
"I also see the support group phenomenon happening. The people in the group come together and see others who are in the same situation. There is a bond and they support one another." ■



Merrill Tanner

On at the FAB

Lindsay Knox's MFA thesis exhibition, *Poem for a Homebody*, runs until Jan. 15 at the FAB Gallery. This particular piece is titled *Departures and Arrivals*.



Michael Davies-Yenn

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folio

news [shorts]

folio presents a sample of some of the research stories that recently appeared on ExpressNews, the U of A's online news source, and other campus news sources. To read more, go to www.expressnews.ualberta.ca.

Promising treatments for hep B and tuberculosis found

A researcher and his team with the Faculty of Medicine & Dentistry have discovered a new class of drugs that could one day be used to treat people with hepatitis B. They have also made a similar discovery for the treatment of tuberculosis.

Working with cultures in his lab, Rakesh Kumar and his colleagues have discovered a new class of drugs for hepatitis B that does three important things: it is effective against the normal strain of the hepatitis B virus; it is effective against the drug-resistant strain and it isn't toxic to healthy cells. He says no one else in the world has identified this class of drugs. These new drugs could be used in combination with other hepatitis B drugs on the market—at the same time, by themselves or one after the other.

Right now, four drugs are used to treat hepatitis B. Some of these treatments trigger drug-resistant strains of the virus. When the treatment is halted for any reason, it can result in more severe hepatitis B infection. Some of these current treatments are also toxic to patients.

"We want to inhibit the virus without killing healthy cells and that's what this new class of drugs can do," says Kumar, an associate professor in the Department of Laboratory Medicine and Pathology. "And we want to inhibit the DNA of the virus with maximum impact in hopes of eradicating the hepatitis B virus altogether."

Researchers looking for high-schools grads from 1985

Where were you in 1985? If you were a graduate of Harry Ainley, Ross Sheppard, Victoria Composite, Jasper Place, Eastglen or Queen Elizabeth high schools, some University of Alberta researchers may want to talk to you.

Back in 1985, a group of some 900 students from these six Edmonton high schools took part in a research study on the sociological and psychological effects of youth unemployment. The project was a school-to-work transition study undertaken during one of the province's economic downturns. The researchers, including Harvey Krahn, one of the principal investigators of the original study, last spoke to the subjects more than 10 years ago for a follow-up on the original survey. Now they are looking to go a step further and follow up with these former students again—something that would make this project a first in Canada.

If you were part of the 1985 School-Work Transition project survey or think you are, and wish to be part of the 25 year follow-up survey, visit the website or email swt25@ualberta.ca.

Engineer wins thesis competition and researches cancer

The future of cancer treatment and a University of Alberta graduate student's personal career prospects are looking bright. Weiyang Liu beat competitors from 80 of the best university graduate schools in western North America with his master's thesis on the use of a light-sensitive drug to treat prostate cancer.

Liu, a U of A electrical engineering student, had his research reviewed internally and was put forward as the university's sole entry into the annual master's thesis competition sponsored by the Western Association of Graduate Schools, which represents some 80 university graduate schools located in western Canada and the United States. He is part of the university's interdisciplinary team developing a two-technology treatment that specifically targets a cancerous prostate gland. Liu says the combination of drug treatment and the fibre-optics system could one day replace the long-standing prostate cancer treatments alternatives, chemotherapy or surgery.

"Our prostate cancer drug is injected into a patient, but only begins killing cells when it's activated or turned on by laser light, which is guided by tiny fibre-optic cables that have been inserted into the patient's prostate gland," said Liu. "This delivers the cancer treatment right to the prostate, unlike chemotherapy, which attacks the whole body."

Team's aim is to get research to the patient's bed faster

A team of scientists and clinicians are hoping that working with decision makers helps their medical findings get from the bench to the bedside quicker. That's the idea behind the Alberta-wide Interdisciplinary Chronic Disease Collaboration.

"What we find most rewarding as physicians is publishing our research and then seeing immediate changes in health policy, and in how care is delivered to our patients. But that often doesn't happen," said Marcello Tonelli, a professor in the Faculty of Medicine & Dentistry. "We decided to create a province-wide research team, deliberately including health-care decision-makers and government policy-makers as team members, to ensure that our research findings can be of immediate benefit."

Tonelli, along with colleagues Brenda Hemmelgarn and Braden Manns from the University of Calgary, created the collaboration and began the process by meeting with key leaders at Alberta Health and Wellness and Alberta Health Services. In 2009 the team got funding and started its work. It is comprised of 26 members, including scientists, physicians and health policy-makers from the universities of Alberta, Calgary, Toronto, Aberdeen and Queen's University. As well they have officials from Alberta Health Services, the Canadian Agency for Drugs and Technologies in Health, and Statistics Canada. ■

Joining agricultural forces for schoolchildren

Bev Betkowsky

The University of Alberta has joined forces with an Aboriginal community to teach schoolchildren about the joys of growing and eating their own vegetables.

As part of a nutrition study led by researchers in the Department of Agricultural, Food and Nutritional Science, 25 Earthboxes were recently installed in Grades 1 to 7 classrooms at Kipohitkaw Education Centre on the Alexander First Nation, northwest of Edmonton.

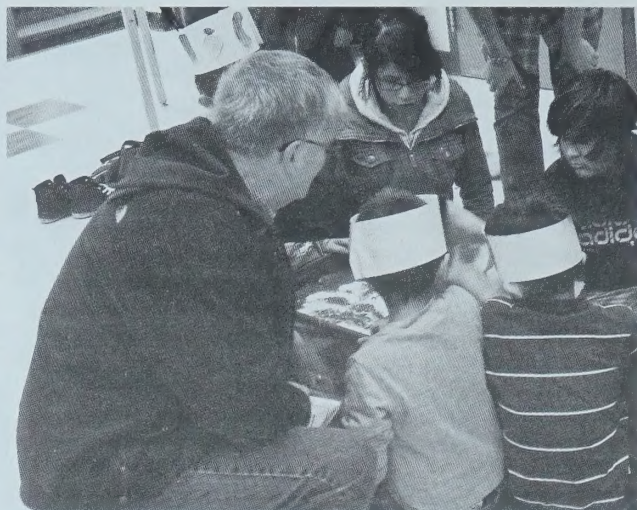
The plants-in-a-box are part of a two-year study to see if small classroom gardens can coax kids to acquire a taste for, and subsequently eat more, vegetables and fruit. The project, which is also supported by Alberta Agriculture, Food and Rural Development, is for the first time including a First Nations school in its scope, at the request of the community itself.

The Earthbox project arose from concerns within Alexander First Nation about the health of its children and an underlying worry about an increasing rate of obesity.

Discussions were started by one of the community's elders with researchers at the U of A, and it was decided to launch a study to explore the issue. A "wisdom committee" was formed, bringing together elders, band governance and university researchers. Together, the committee members developed culturally sensitive parameters for the study to ensure the children would be comfortable during the survey process. Then the Earthboxes were welcomed into the school and blessed in a special ceremony before the youngsters started planting.

"There was dirt everywhere," chuckled David DyckFehderau, project co-ordinator of First Nations Child Health at the U of A. "Lots of fun was had by all."

Jody Kootenay, director of education for Alexander First Nation, sees the project as much more than just an exercise in healthy eating. It's also a meaningful partnership that



Earthboxes were recently installed in classrooms at Kipohitkaw Education Centre on the Alexander First Nation, northwest of Edmonton, as part of a nutrition study.

benefits her community.

"The university was open to hearing from parents and what our needs are as a community. The people involved have that passion and sensitivity for what they are doing, and they truly care about our community and the kids," Kootenay said.

The dill, tomatoes, carrots and beets sprouting in the classes will be harvested into the school's hot lunch program, and the subject of plants and nutrition will be discussed as class topics.

During the course of the study, students' weight and diet will be assessed to determine whether the classroom gardens make an impression on the children, said Anna Farmer, an assistant professor of community nutrition at the U of A, and one of the researchers leading the study.

"We will be able to see whether there's been any change in attitudes and preferences towards food," Farmer said. "Ultimately, we want to improve their eating habits, and to be more confident about growing food, so they can initiate that in their own families."

When the Earthboxes—which are widely used and endorsed by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations—were brought into the

school, the youngsters helped assemble the boxes and plant the seeds, to grow a sense of ownership.

"The children will come close to understanding where their food comes from, and they'll learn at a young age about making healthy choices," said DyckFehderau. "We hope they'll learn about plants, gardening and nutrition by working with the Earthboxes in class, by talking with elders about traditional gardening and plants, and by talking with teachers about nutrition."

The study's findings will help the Alexander community understand what obesity is doing to its children, Kootenay said.

"I'm hoping [the project] initiates discussions and funding so that kids can have access to regular physical activity outside of school. We also want to raise awareness in our community about the food we are feeding our children and the lack of healthy options, given the area we live in. We hope this project will re-instill the need for and value of traditional foods as healthier choices."

The collaboration is equally rewarding for the U of A, said Farmer. "It's nice to be working with such a proactive community, that takes ownership of the project." ■

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New fund made available for international research collaborations

Michael Davies-Venn

The University of Alberta's World Universities Network office has begun offering funds to graduate student researchers and faculty. The new Research Mobility Fund is the latest development since the U of A accepted an invitation to join the network in 2008, which is made up of other leading research institutions worldwide. Stefan Scherer, U of A Worldwide Universities Network project co-ordinator, says the new funds will enable mobility of graduate students and researchers.

"There is a commitment by the U of A to foster research collaborations with other leading international public universities within the network," Scherer said. "Researchers can apply and use the funds to visit colleagues in other countries within the network and bring back what they learned to the U of A. Also, researchers can also use the fund to bring colleagues to the U of A."

Scherer says researchers within the network, made up of 16 universities,

are presently focused on five research themes, or global challenges, which include opportunities and challenges of globalization, adapting to climate change and understanding cultures. He says research done in the partner-

ship network can contribute towards solutions to challenges society faces. The Worldwide Universities Network provides a platform on which researchers can collaborate on these issues, Scherer said. He says the \$25,000 Research Mobility Fund, which is available year round from the U of A's Worldwide Universities Network office, is useful in helping researchers make the first step towards developing larger research initiatives.

"The hope is that researchers will use this fund to establish sustainable col-

laborations that allow them to apply for actual research grants," Scherer said. "If a U of A researcher forms a partnership with a colleague in a British university, for example, they could then form a

research initiative on an issue related to world health, and could bring their research proposal to the World Health Organization."

He says such a team would have a greater chance of being successful because it belongs to the Worldwide Universities Network, which is an established network of researchers. "This fund should allow researchers to establish the relationship with other researchers that would make for such an outcome."

Chantel Nixon, U of A graduate student, and John England, a researcher in the Department of Earth

and Atmospheric Sciences, recently used the fund to travel and attend a conference at the University of Bristol in the United Kingdom. The pair say that at the meeting they met world-renowned researchers who study ice sheets and sea level changes, and had the chance to receive information on the most recent research on ice sheets and deglaciation, from a study by more than 30 researchers.

The U of A is the only Canadian university currently in the network, which bills itself as one of the leading international higher education networks, collaborating to accelerate the creation of knowledge and to develop leaders who will be prepared to address the significant challenges, and opportunities, of the rapidly changing world. To that end, the Worldwide Universities Network provides its own funding support throughout its Research Development Fund to researchers within the network.

"The Research Development Fund allows researchers to bring together a bigger group of other researchers and conduct workshops to discuss research

topics. From that, researchers can work with their partners to develop a research initiative and apply for research funding," said Scherer.

Andy Knight, U of A political science researcher, is a recent recipient of the fund. Knight recently organized a conference at the U of A—Xeno-Racism & Extremism: Fracture Patterns in Muslim Populations in North America and Europe—which brought researchers from around the world to explore the causes of extremism.

Applications for the Research Development Fund are accepted once a year at the U of A's Worldwide Universities Network office. And each institution within the network is allowed three applications each year. Put together, Scherer says support from the Worldwide Universities Network puts researchers in a good position to further their studies.

"Using this network, researchers can form clusters and then be able to access funding in other countries and from international research organizations," Scherer said. ■

“Researchers can apply and use the funds to visit colleagues in other countries within the network and bring back what they learned to the U of A.”

Stefan Scherer

talks & events

Talks & Events listings do not accept submissions via fax, mail, e-mail or phone. Please enter events you'd like to appear in folio and on ExpressNews at: www.uofaweb.ualberta.ca/events/submit.cfm. A more comprehensive list of events is available online at www.events.ualberta.ca. Deadline: noon one week prior to publication. Entries will be edited for style and length.

Until Jan 14, 2011

The John H. Meier, Jr. Governor General's Literary Award for Fiction Collection. This exhibition presents examples of first editions of all the titles that have won Canada's prestigious Governor General's Literary Award for Fiction, from its inception to the present. Admission is free. Noon–4:30 p.m. Rutherford Library, North and South.

Until Jan 15

Dialogue of the Domestic: Anna House. This exhibition is the final visual presentation for the degree of Master of Fine Arts in Painting. (Please note The Fine Arts Building Gallery will be closed from Dec. 24 through Jan. 4, 2011. The gallery will reopen in Jan. 5, 2011.) 10 a.m.–5 p.m., Fine Arts Building Gallery.

Poem for a homebody: Lindsay Knox. This exhibition is the final visual presentation for the degree of Master of Fine Arts in Drawing and Intermedia. 10 a.m.–5 p.m., Fine Arts Building Gallery.

Jan 7

Orthodontics Bears Den 2011. Orthodontics Alumni Bears Den event. Invitation to all Ortho alumni, staff, residents, family and friends to the annual Ortho Bears Den to be held at the Bears Den, Clare Drake Arena. For more information and to RSVP, go to www.ualberta.ca/alumni/orthobearsden.

Golden Bears Hockey vs University of British Columbia Thunderbirds 7:30 p.m. Clare Drake Arena. www.bears.ualberta.ca

Jan 7–9

Panda's Volleyball Invitational. Match times and opponents TBD Main Gym <http://www.pandas.ualberta.ca>.

Jan 8

Golden Bears Hockey vs University of British Columbia 7:30 p.m. Clare Drake Arena. www.bears.ualberta.ca

Jan 10

Deadline – Study Abroad: Killam

Fellowships Program (USA). Open to undergraduate students in all faculties. Students can apply for a direct exchange to study for a term/year in the United States at one of the Killam Fellowships partner institutions. NOTE: Students must meet with an advisor in order to submit a complete application for the Killam Fellowships Program. For more information about the Killam program, please visit www.killamfellowships.com/index.php.

Art Therapy Presentation. Come learn about the art therapy profession, what it is, what it's not, what training you need, and what work opportunities are

available to professional art therapists. Register by calling 780-439-7311 ext. 21 or e-mail meers@ualberta.ca 1–3 p.m., St. Stephen's College.

Jan 13

U of A Calgary Centre Speaker Series: Chinese investments in the Canadian economy: The leading edge of a wave? The emergence of China as a leading source of investment in Canada is a recent phenomenon. In Alberta, Chinese investment is centered on our energy sector but this is simply the leading edge of a much larger wave of investment. Join

Gordon Houlden, U of A China Institute director, as he discusses Chinese investment in the Canadian economy. RSVP by Jan. 6 to 403-718-6375 or calgary@ualberta.ca 4:30–6:45 p.m. www.calgary.ualberta.ca.

Jan 14

Golden Bears and Panda's Volleyball vs University of Regina Cougars Panda's to follow at 8 p.m. 6:30 p.m. Main Gym. www.bears.ualberta.ca

Panda's Hockey vs University of Lethbridge Pronghorns 7 p.m. Clare Drake Arena. www.pandas.ualberta.ca

laurels

Charlie Arshad, professor in the Department of Renewable Resources, received the Soil Science Distinguished Service Award from the Soil Society of America.

Jeff Bisanz, professor in the Department of Psychology, received the inaugural Westbury Legacy Award from the Alberta Centre for Child, Family and Community Research for his work as Community-University Partnership research director.

Gino Fallone, professor in the Department of Oncology, received the Order of Merit for Labour from Italy's Order of Knighthood.

Ben Roston, professor in the Department of Earth and Atmospheric Sciences, has been named a Fellow of Engineers Canada.

Alexander Penin, professor in the Department of Physics, was named Mercator Visiting Professor by the German Research Foundation.

Marie-Claire Shanahan, professor in the Department of Elementary Education, was named a National Association for Research in Science Teaching International Committee Early Career Scholar.

Carla Peck, professor in the Department of Elementary Education, has received the Pat Clifford Award for Early Career Research in Education from the Canadian Education Association.

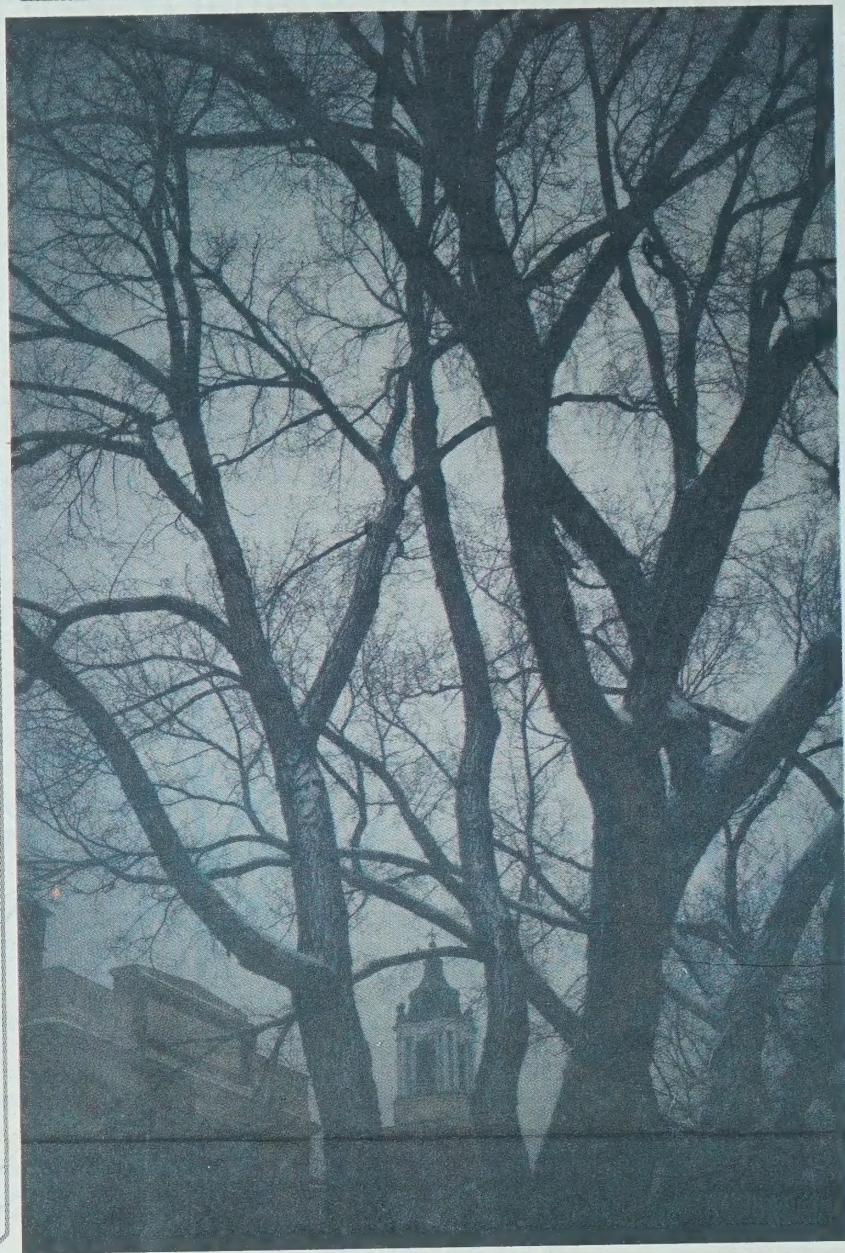
Nancy Melnychuk, professor in the Department of Secondary Education, has received the R Tait McKenzie Award of Honour from Physical and Health Education Canada.

You can have your room and eat it too



Anna House's MFA thesis exhibition, *Dialogue of the Domestic*, is on display in the FAB Gallery until Jan. 15. Her main attraction, *The Memory Room*, consists of three-plus-metre-high walls encircling the 23 square-metre area completely covered in a mixture of cake icing, creating a solemn image of a dining room, complete with cups, cutlery, floor tiles, table cloth, light fixtures and a flower bouquet—all of which are hand-carved from the mixture. House says the room helps to answer the question of what is left after the meals have been cooked and eaten, families have argued and people have loved.

Michael Davies-Venn



OLD MAN WINTER *presents*

A CAMPUS WINTER TALE



the
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